



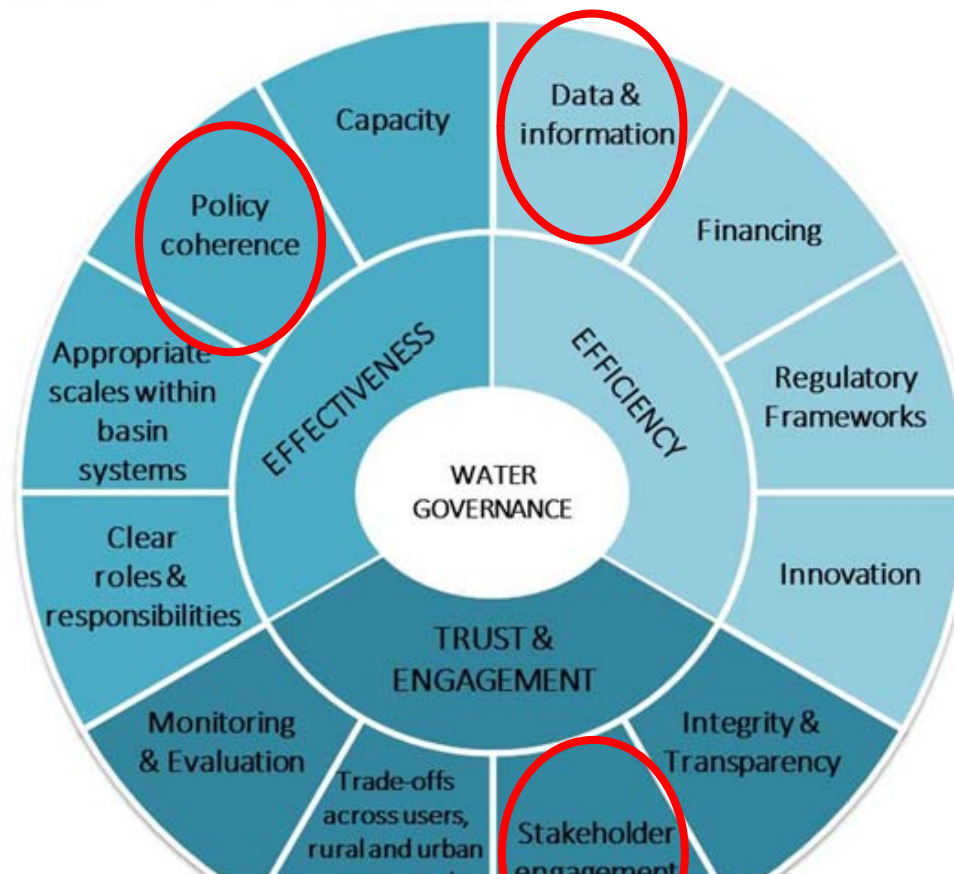
Water Framework Directive Implementation in Ireland

Dr. Matthew Craig, EPA

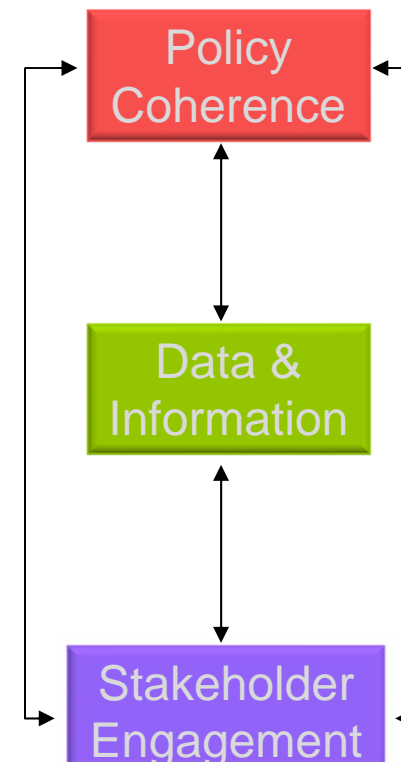
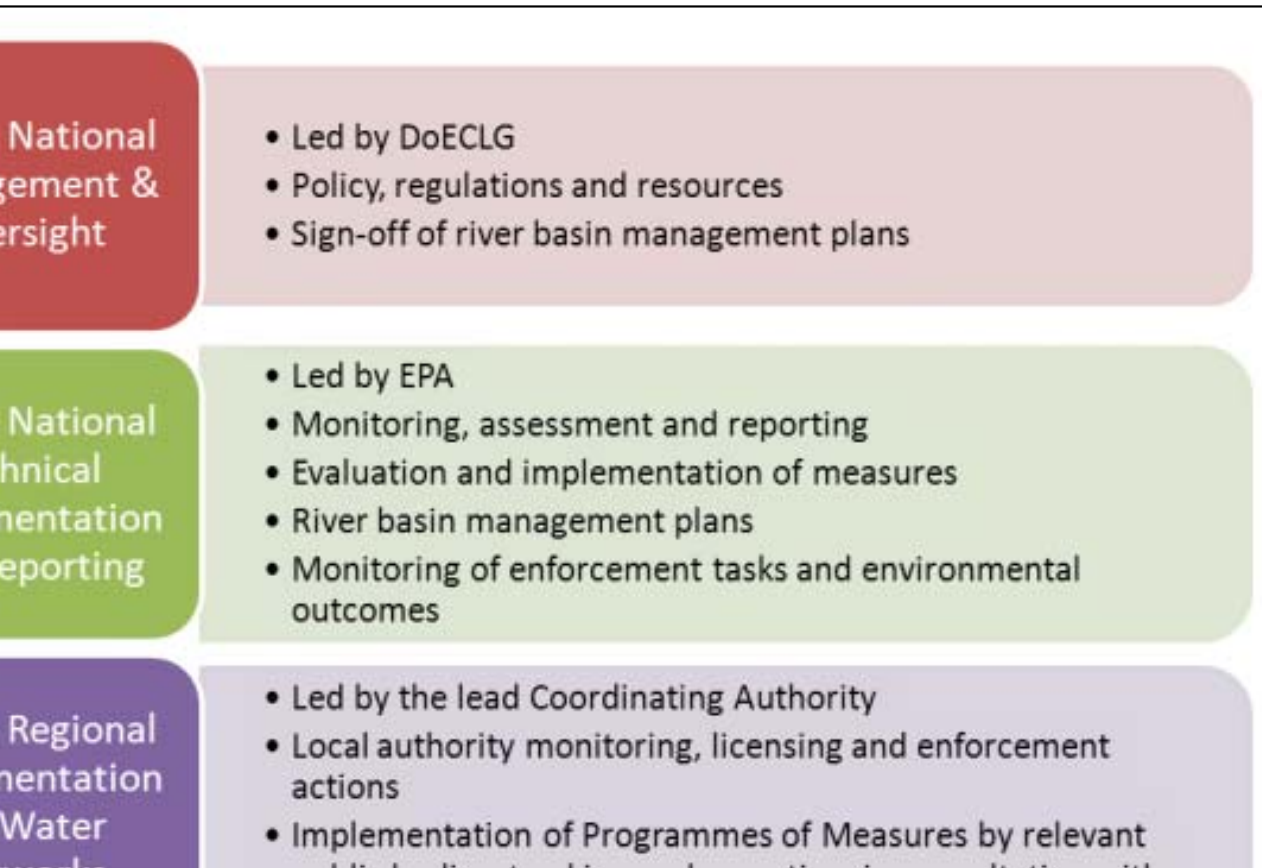
EURO-INBO Conference
21st September, 2017

Lough Carra, County Mayo (photo: Bryan Kennedy, EPA)

OECD - Twelve Principles on Water Governance



D Governance in Ireland



Integrated Approach to Water Management



Traditionally the focus had been on:

Managing water disciplines, i.e. rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters & groundwater; and/or

Managing activities, e.g. wastewater, agriculture & land use.

However by considering water **catchments** at the centre of a water management framework, this also allows consideration of:

Ecosystems,

Geo-system services,

Flood management,

Land use management,

Planning / development, and critically



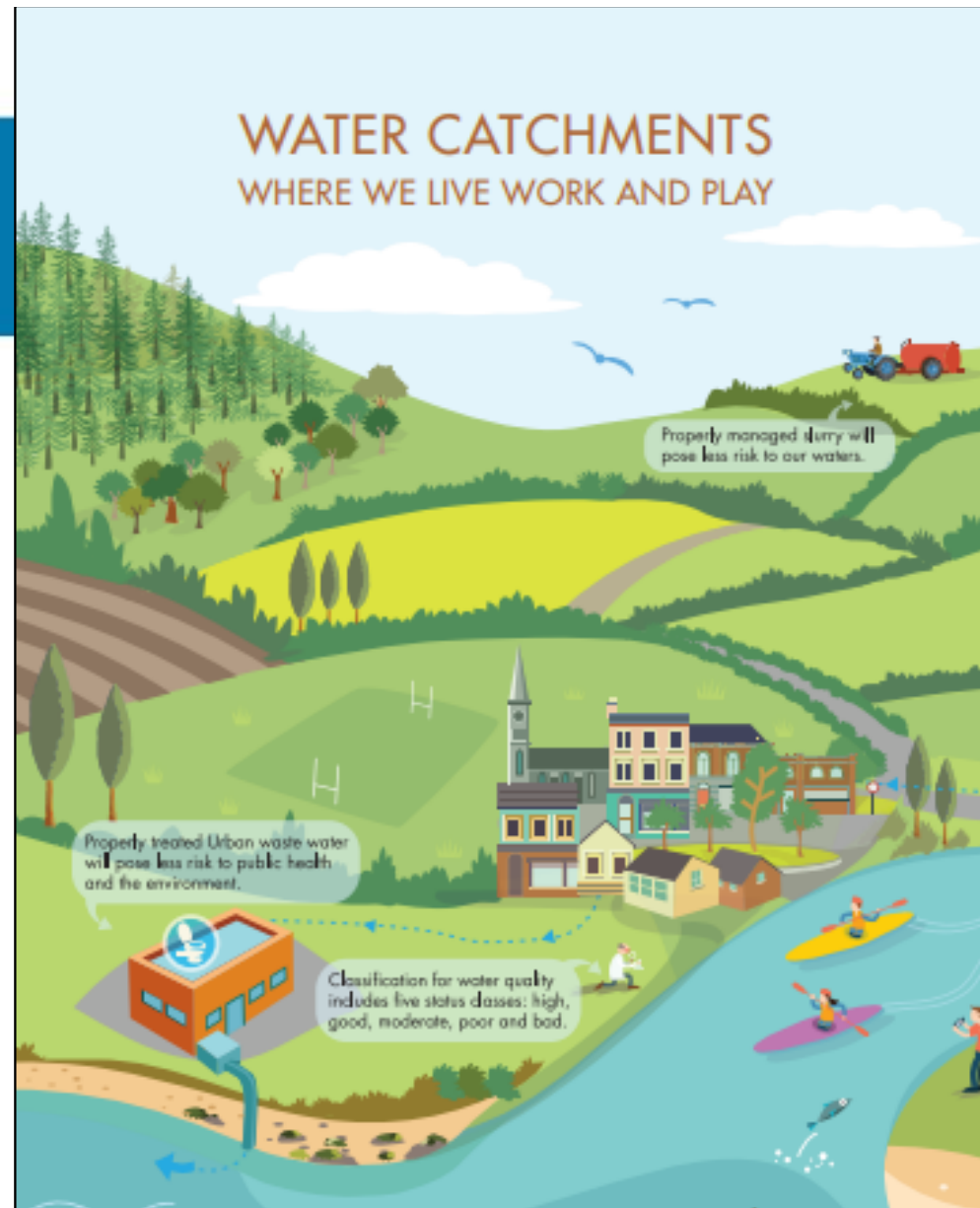
ed Vision

**PUBLIC
WATER
FORUM**

**FÓRAM
UISCE
POIBLÍ**

paCatchments
Healthy • Resilient • Productive
ed water resources supporting vibrant communities

waters!



Water Issues for Ireland



Ireland's water environment is generally "good" - but there are areas of concern:

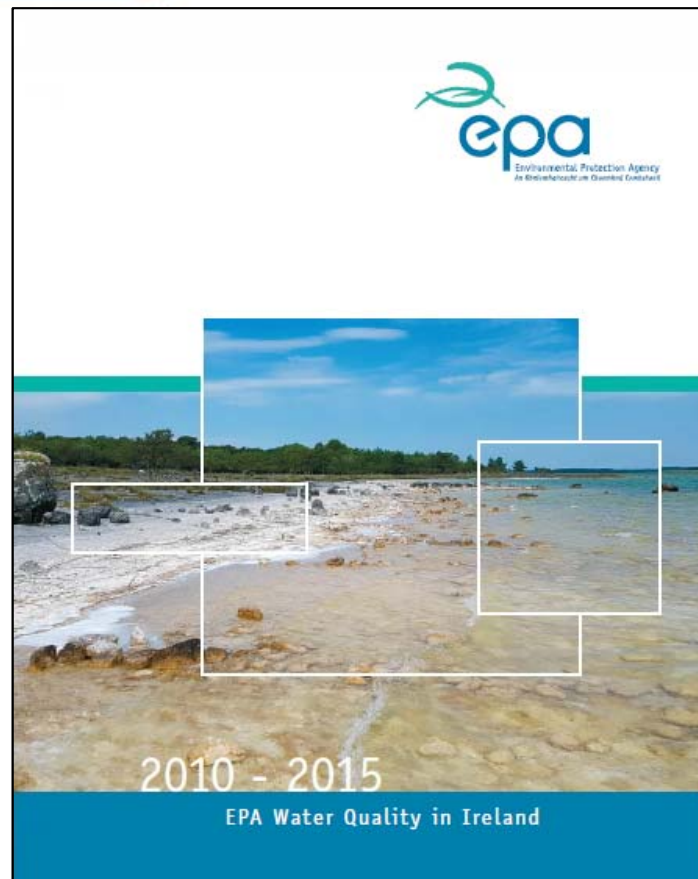
While the **worst of the worst** have improved, we have lost the best of the best;

Localised problems are being masked by national figures;

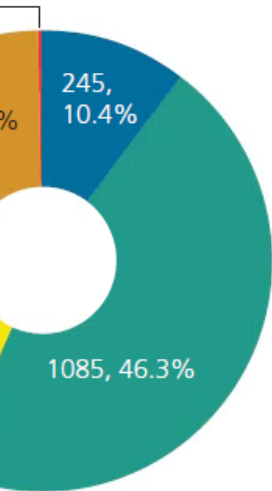
Too much focus on a "one size fits all" approach to measures.

Current water legislation is generally good but is being let down in some areas when it comes to implementation.

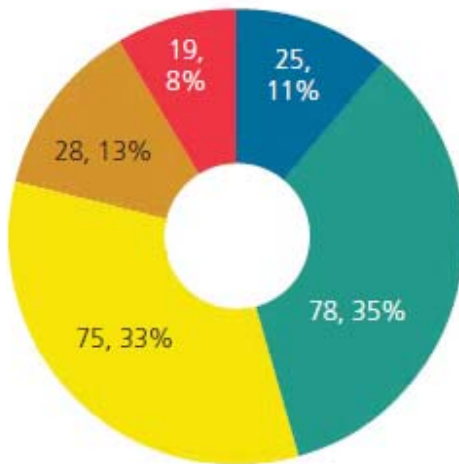
Climate change will play a part in future



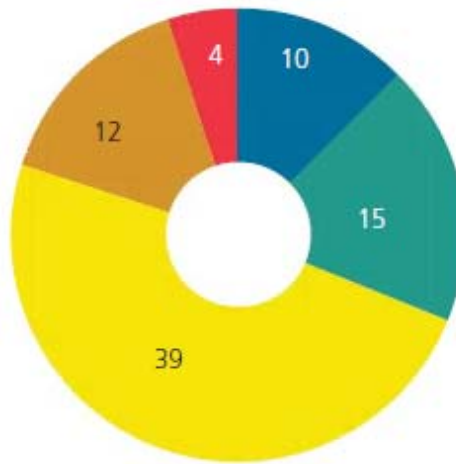
Surface water status (2010-2015)



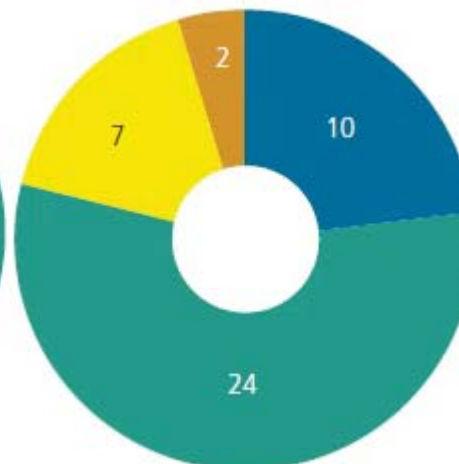
Surface water (ok)



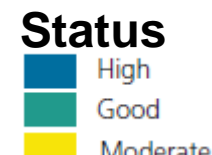
Lakes
(46% are ok)



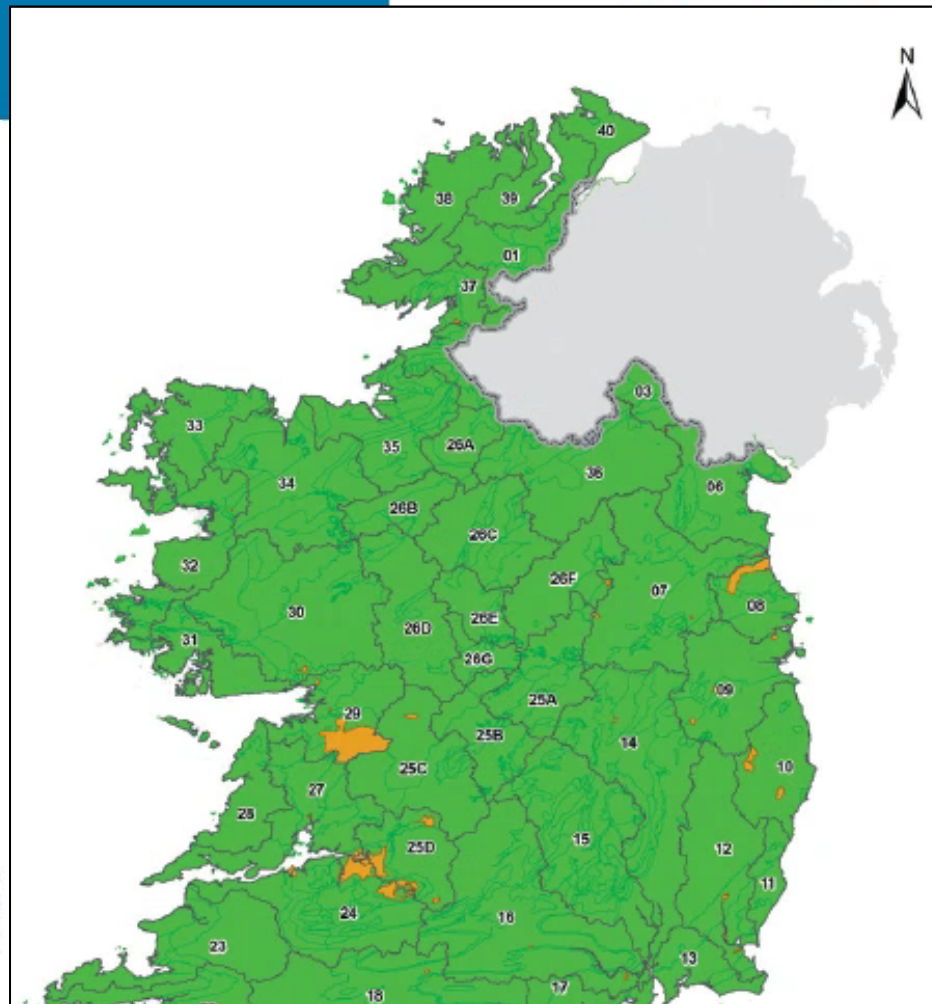
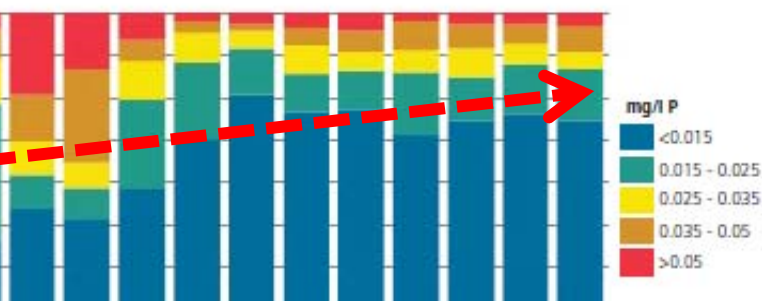
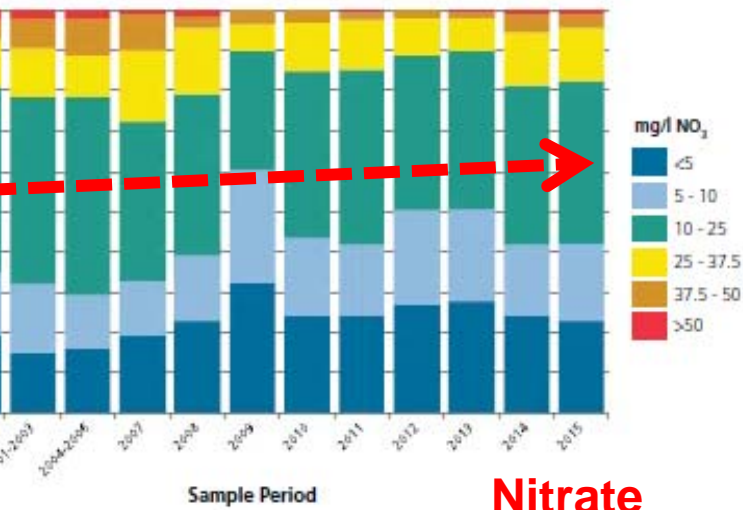
Estuaries
(31% are ok)



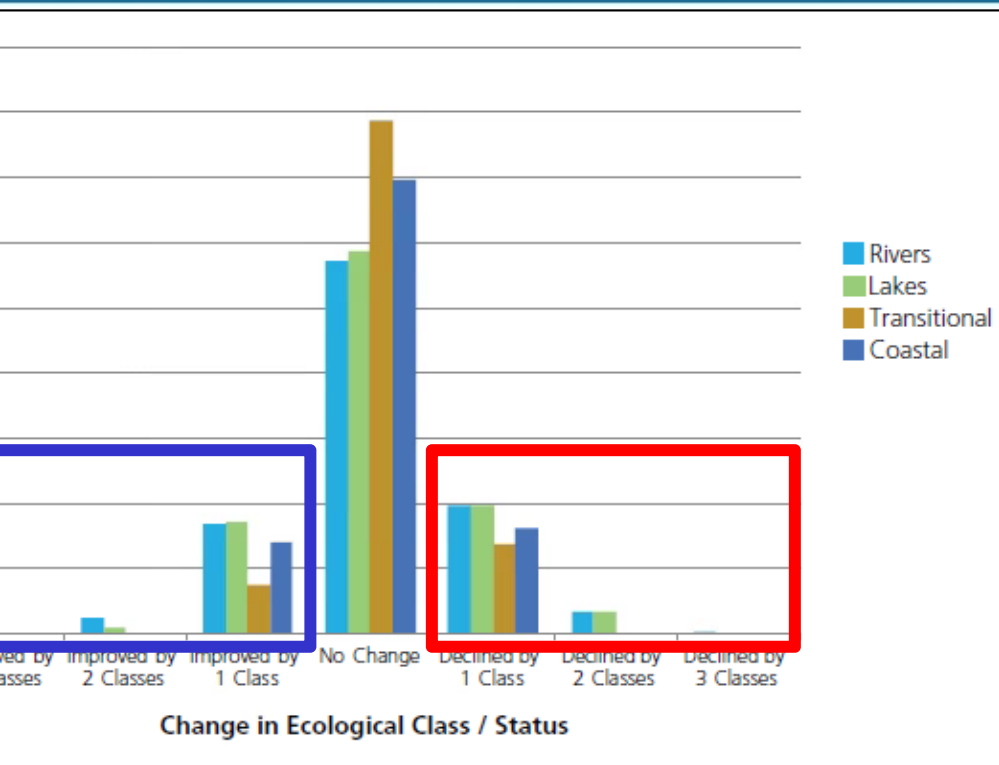
Coastal Waters
(79% are ok)



Groundwater Status (2004-2015)



Water Quality Deterioration Outpaces Improvement

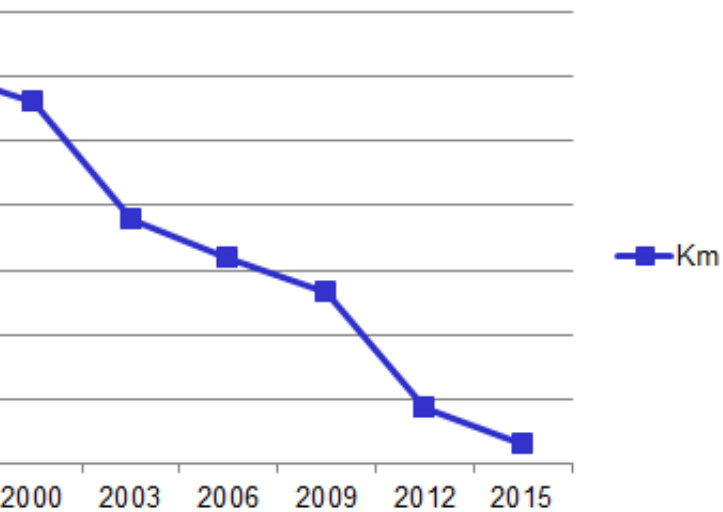


Change in Water Body Status

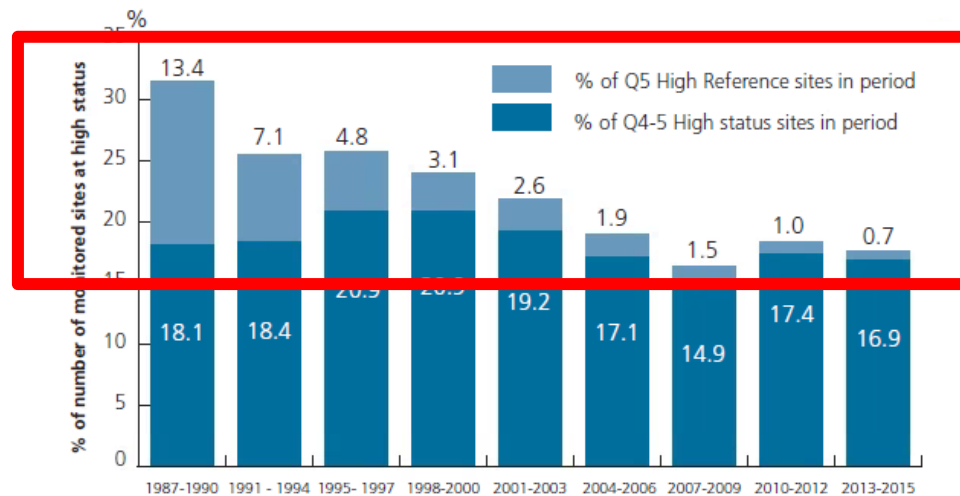
	Improved	No Change	Declined
Rivers	459	1,342	544
Lakes	23	73	29
Transitional	6	63	11
Coastal	6	30	7



Water Quality Trends

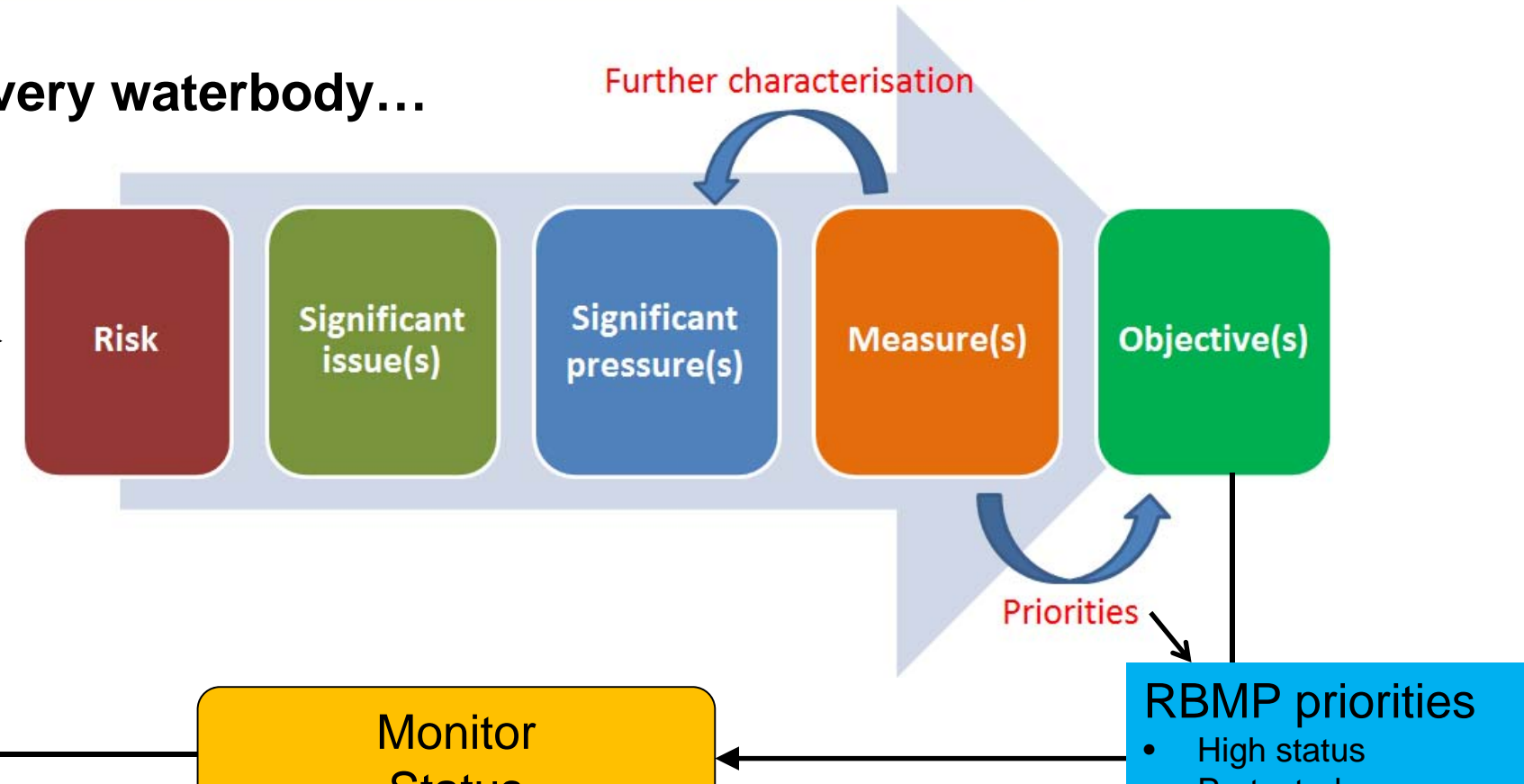


ing the “worst of the worst”

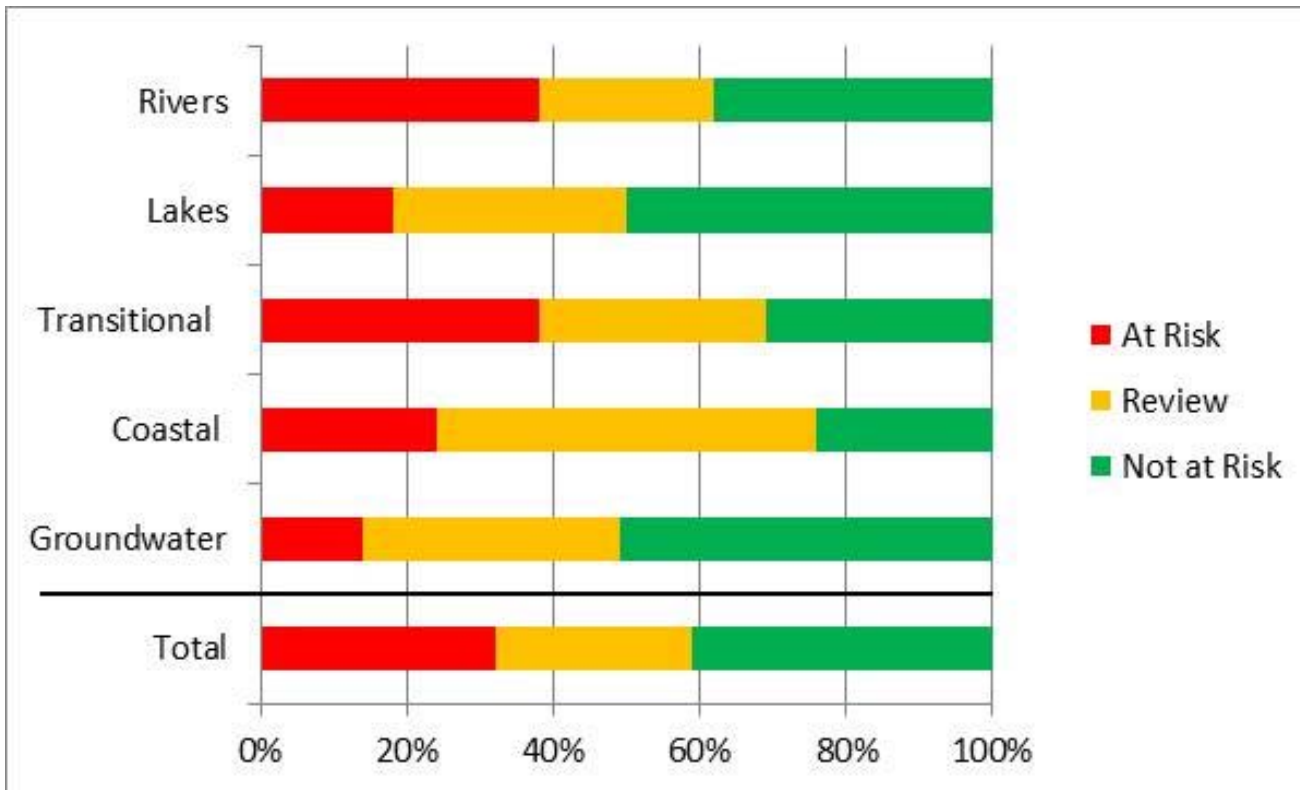


Characterisation Approach

For every waterbody...



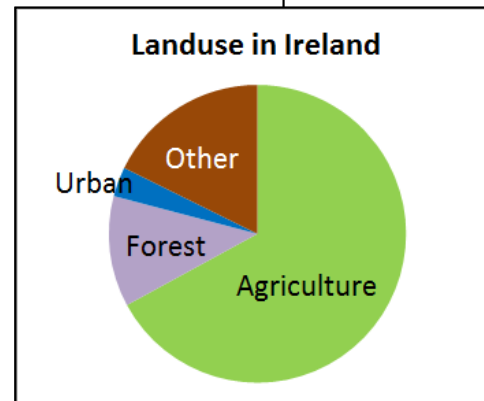
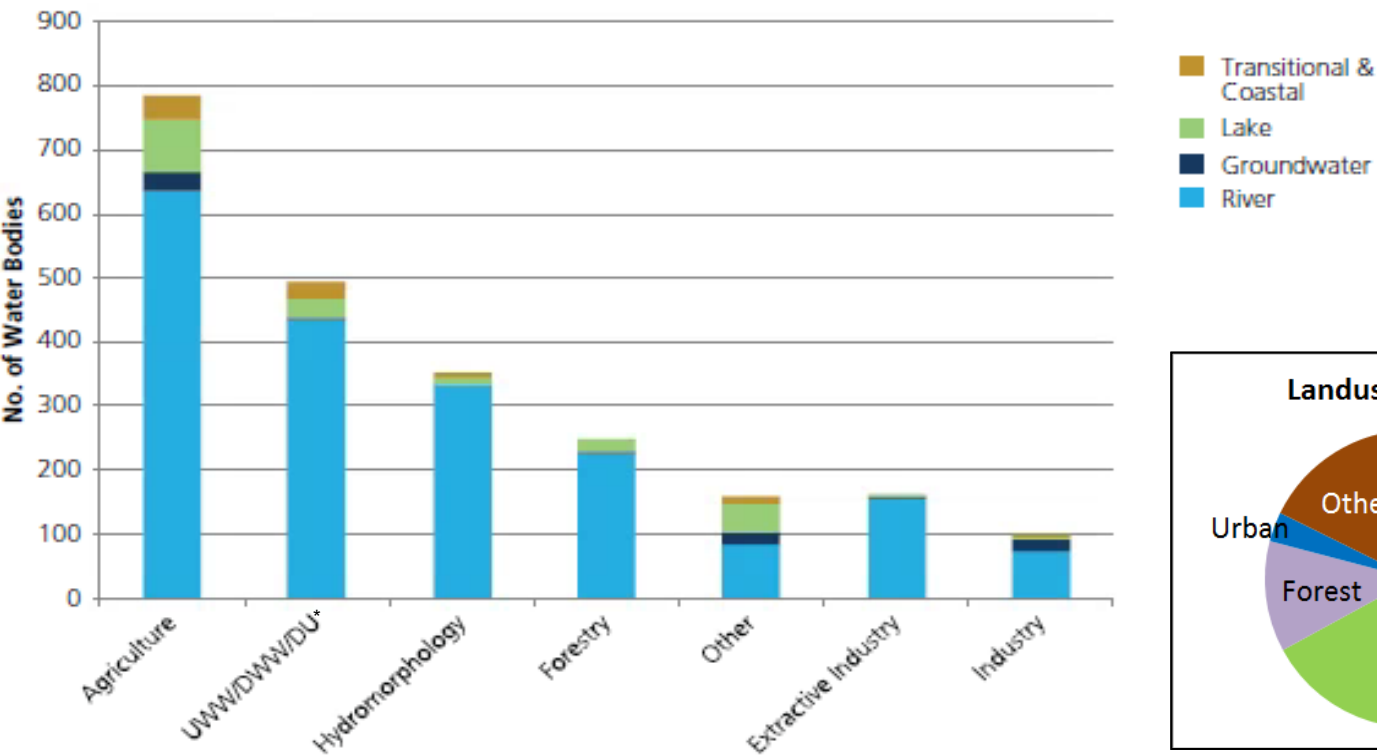
Risk Assessment Outcomes



Significant Issues & Pressures



Significant pressures in *At Risk* water bodies



Urban Wastewater (UWW), Private Wastewater (DWW) & Diffuse Urban (DU)

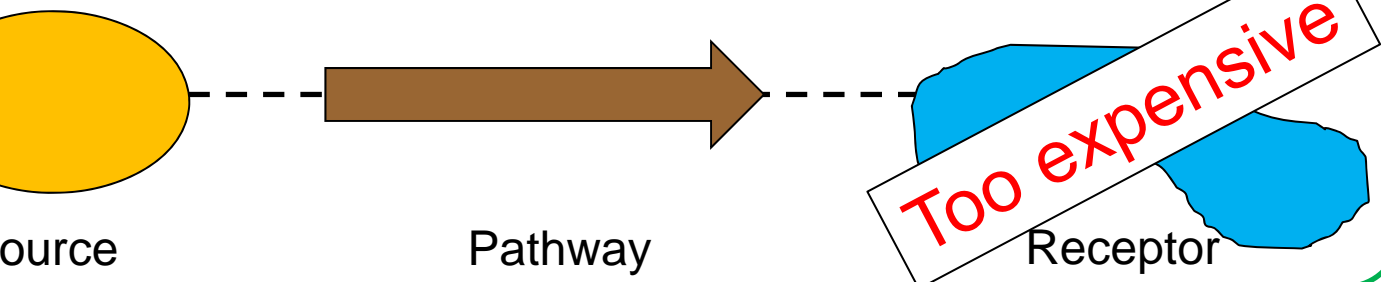
asures



working
its own



Option 1:
Reduce the source



Option 2:
Repair the receptor



Objective Setting & Priorities

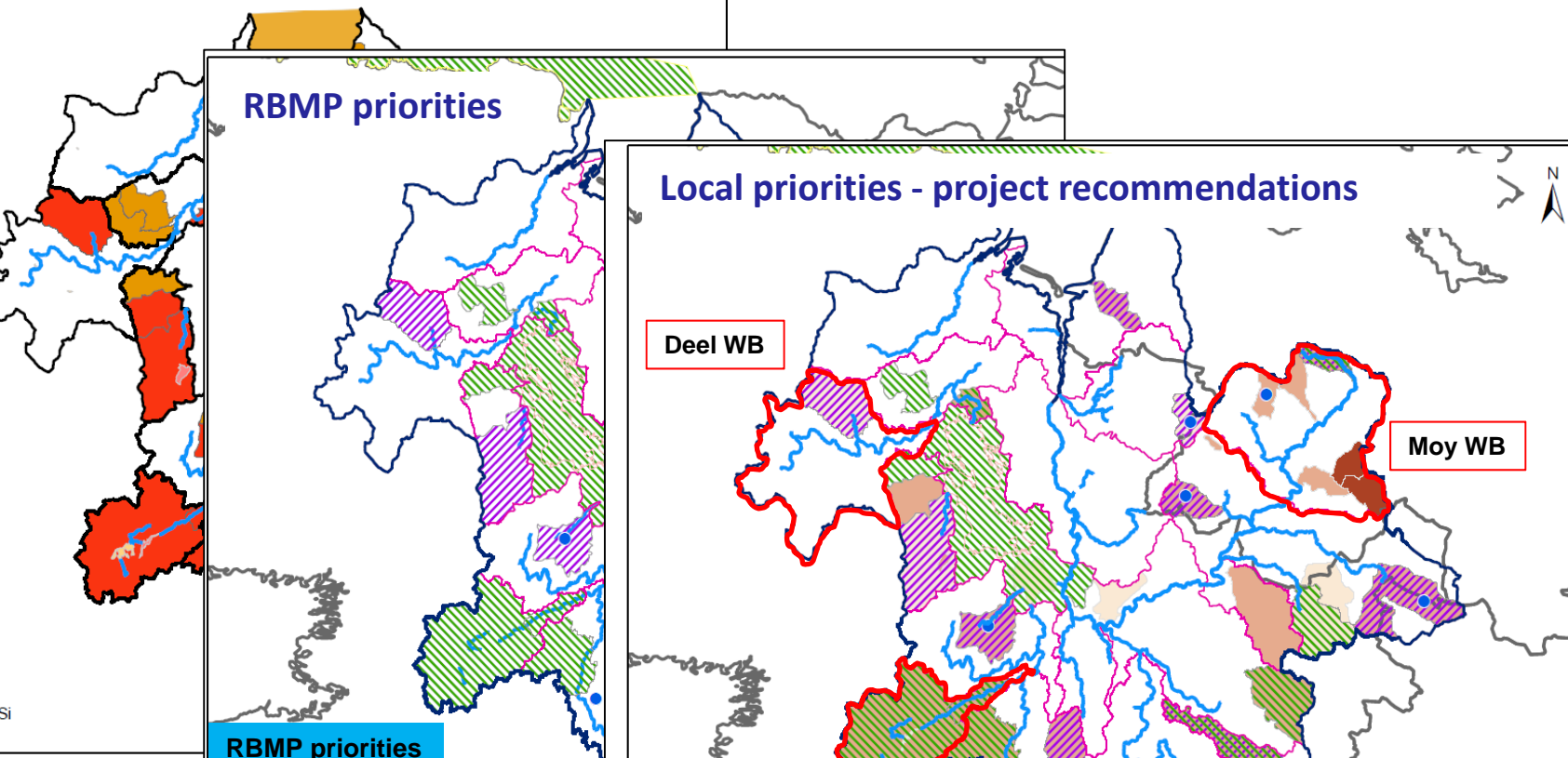
SE Region catchment assessment workshop, Roscrea, June 2017



Objective Setting & Prioritisation Process



Water Bodies



RBMP priorities

Local priorities - project recommendations

Deel WB

Moy WB

RBMP priorities

Will Many Challenges Ahead



Build on successful **collaborations** such as the Dairy Sustainability Initiative.

Support local initiatives targeting the **right measure in the right place**.

Maintain www.catchments.ie as the national focal point for catchment **information** and water condition assessments.

Improve **technical understanding** in areas such as geomorphology & environmental river flows.

Explore how we **communicate, engage & share information** (e.g. how can we harness citizen science)?

Manage **expectations** as improvement may take time

Thank you for your attention

